

farm bill, a farm bill, one of the most bipartisan pieces of legislation that typically moves through the Congress, had a tax increase in it.

We had the SCHIP bill that the gentleman spoke on earlier in this hour which had a tax increase in it. And just this day on the floor we had a Trade Adjustment Assistance Act that also had a tax increase in it. And, as my good friend from Georgia pointed out, we now have what is appropriately called the mother of all tax increases coming, which will raise \$3.5 trillion, \$3.5 trillion on American families across this country.

It begs the question: Why do politicians want to raise taxes? It is real simple. Because politicians like to spend money. You always hear "tax-and-spend politicians." It is actually the opposite. It is spend-and-tax. Spending always drives the equation.

That is why this summer my good friend and I and several other members of the Republican Party offered a series of amendments which said let's hold the line on spending. Let's do what families have had to do from time to time, what business owners, as my friend from California pointed out, have to do from time to time, what individual taxpayers have to do from time to time. Let's just spend what we spent last year.

After all, if you ask the typical American, do you think government spends a lot of money? Do you think maybe there is just a little bit of waste in the Federal Government? And everyone knows instinctively, of course there is. So we said, let's just spend what we spent last year.

You know what? Right now we are operating in a continuing resolution, which is a fancy way of saying we are living on last year's budget, even though the Congress was supposed to have budgets in place by September 30 and start a new budget. So we are living on last year's spending.

When we argued these amendments this fall, that is what we wanted to do, the other side told us, oh, the sky is going to fall, the world is going to end, all kinds of things are going to happen. You know what? For 4 weeks now we have been doing just what we offered in those amendments, living on last year's budget. And, guess what? Kids are going to school. The government is still running. Nothing terrible has really happened. If we can do it for 4 weeks, we can do it for 4 months, we can do it for the next year.

Here is why this is critical. If we don't begin to get a handle on spending, it hurts us in our economic position around the world. And right now Americans understand this as well. The market is so competitive, we have got to keep taxes low, keep spending under control so our economy can grow.

There was a point in the past, there was a point in the past coming out of World War II where America was uniquely situated; it didn't really matter if elected officials, if politicians did

some dumb things. But now it matters. Now the competition is so stiff we have got to get public policy right.

Just think of some of the numbers we have to deal with today. We have 300 million people in this country. We are competing with the Chinese, who have 1.3 billion. It is critical that we do things right so we can remain the economic superpower, because here is the way the world works.

The economic superpower is also the military and diplomatic superpower. Right now there is one country that fits that definition, that is the United States of America, and that is a good thing. The American people recognize instinctively that the world is safer and better when America leads. If in the future that is some other country, that is a scary thought. We want America to lead.

I kind of joke when I say I think the only folks who don't get that concept is the editorial page of the New York Times. But Americans understand that the world is better. I love what Cal Thomas said. He was talking one time about how sometimes the national media doesn't see things the same way that a typical American family does. He had a line when he was talking about the New York Times. He said, "I get up every morning and I read my Bible and the New York Times so I can see what each side is up to." There is certainly some truth in that statement.

It is important for America to lead. The way America can lead economically is to keep taxes low, keep spending under control, and, if we do that, American families, American business owners can create those jobs and make our economy grow so that we have a prosperous future, just like America has always had, and that will allow America to continue to be the greatest country in the world.

So I thank the gentleman for his time tonight and for his focus. He is so right on target. And my good friend from California as well.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Thanks so very much for joining us tonight, and for really shedding the truth on issues as they relate to taxes. You are so right about the spending.

That is what we have seen in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, is bill after bill after bill with more spending and more spending and more spending. And it will drive, it has to drive, increased taxes. So what we have seen is a proposal from not just a back-bencher, not just somebody who took some wild hair and decided that they were going to propose a tax increase; the proposal comes from the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the tax writing committee. And in fact the Speaker in her first comments about it said she supported it.

Mr. Speaker, on Halloween, you talk about something that is frightening. As my friend from California said, that is frightening, to have the Speaker and the chairman of the Ways and Means

Committee supporting a \$3.5 trillion tax increase, the largest tax increase in the history of our Nation, on individuals.

My good friend from California, I am pleased to yield.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. My good friend from Georgia, I appreciate your yielding. You are talking about spending and you are talking about how much it has increased.

The American public would say before you raise my taxes, have you cut the waste, the fraud and abuse? You just talked about the chairman of Ways and Means. You look at the tax increase he proposed and you wonder why does he want to increase taxes so much?

I look back and I remember on this floor when we were bringing up the Health and Human Services bill. In there, you thought you were going to talk about the needs and the other things.

There was an amendment in there. I remember the debate on the Republican side, Mr. Speaker, because in there, there was put in what is called an earmark for \$2 million for a library which the college didn't ask for to be named after the chairman of Ways and Means. It was interesting to me, I call it "the monument to me," because that is exactly what it is. The American people need their taxes raised so somebody on this floor can name a library after themselves for \$2 million? And if you look at the brochure, it says it will be just as nice as President Clinton or President Carter, which I will tell the American people, Mr. Speaker, were paid for by private funds.

When it was challenged on the side of the Republicans to say maybe that earmark is not right because it didn't go through the process, the chairman of Ways and Means came to the floor and defended it and said he deserved it. When someone said, Well, maybe you shouldn't name it after yourself, he talked about it and said, No, I have been able to raise \$25 million from corporations to go through it. Then when he sat there and talked and they said, Well, maybe we should name one after ourselves, he said, No, no, you don't deserve it.

But that is the hypocrisy that goes on on this floor of the Congress. When you continue to spend, when you continue to move earmarks and you think you can just tax the American public more and more, they are going to wake up. That is why I appreciate the time you have taken, the Truth Squad, to let people know what goes on on this floor.

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Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the American people for scaring them too much, but this is the truth, and I yield back to my good friend from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for those comments, but the truth sometimes is painful. And it is important as leaders in this Nation